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that of an agent with strictly limited and constantly diminishing powers: he never wielded the powers enjoyed by the royal governors and never had that title. Another commendable chapter traces the history of the peculiar system of land distribution, making clear for the first time many knotty points.

The proprietary era of Georgia is an excellent field for monographic study, since the period covers only twenty years and practically all the known documentary material is available. Large masses of these records, taken from the British public records office, have been published by the state of Georgia in the series known as the *Colonial records*. Many volumes of manuscripts are still in the hands of the state compiler awaiting publication. All this material, published and in manuscript form, has been used by Mr. McCain; indeed it constitutes his principal resource; he is the first person who has made adequate use of it.

The volume is equipped with a bibliography of the manuscript and published sources, as well as the small number of secondary works cited. There are remarkably few of the slips that usually find their way into first editions, none worth pointing out.

R. P. BROOKS

*Official letter books of W. C. C. Claiborne, 1801-1816.* Edited by Dunbar Rowland, B.S., LL.B., LL.D., director Mississippi department of archives and history. In six volumes. (Jackson: State department of archives and history, 1917. 394 p.; 394 p.; 399 p.; 423 p.; 400 p.; 468 p. \$36.00 per set)

One of the most important and interesting phases of American history is that of the territorial expansion of the United States. Leaving out of consideration the territory already held at the close of the revolutionary war, this expansion may be said to date from the purchase, in 1803, of the vast area called Louisiana. The history of the government of our first foreign-acquired territory, so fruitful in precedents for after years, is of peculiar significance. From the point of view of the historian, it is in many ways fortunate that the southern part of the Louisiana purchase, the territory of Orleans, had but one governor, and he a prolific letter writer.

William Charles Cole Claiborne had already served his apprenticeship as governor of Mississippi territory (1801-1803) when President Jefferson ordered him, together with General James Wilkinson, to proceed to New Orleans and receive Louisiana from the French officials. Appointed at first only as provisional governor of the new acquisition, Claiborne became in 1804 governor of Orleans territory, which office he held for the entire territorial period (1804-1812), and upon the admission of the

state of Louisiana into the union, his faithful service was rewarded by election as state governor. In January, 1817, he was elected to the United States senate, but died in November of that year.

Mr. Rowland has rendered investigators of American history a valuable service by editing Claiborne's *Letter books*. Although the letters cover the period from 1801 to 1816, the bulk of them pertain to the government of Orleans territory (1804-1812). Claiborne took his task seriously, and his many letters to federal officials in Washington reflect his anxieties and difficulties. Inability to speak either French or Spanish, the language of the majority of his civilized charges, was a serious handicap, but on the whole it was perhaps American settlers such as Edward Livingston and Daniel Clark who worried him most. Questions of government, both federal and local, boundary disputes with the Spaniards, Indian matters, Burr's conspiracy, and the British invasion were phases of his problems.

In his introduction to the *Letter books*, the editor dismisses the Claiborne papers in the bureau of rolls and library of the department of state in Washington with the curt remark that they are "incomplete copies of the originals in the Mississippi Department of Archives and History." Just how the letters of a territorial governor to the secretary of state can be characterized in this fashion would require some explanation. Furthermore, an examination of the Washington collection would have enabled Mr. Rowland to fill in several large *lacunae* in his edition. For purposes of comparison the investigator would be wise to consult David W. Parker, *Calendar of papers in Washington archives relating to the territories of the United States*.

For the gap in the *Letter books* (1:284), extending from March 27 to November 8, 1803, Parker (338-339) offers but little assistance. For the blank (3:36) from December 31, 1804, to May 4, 1805, however, Parker (352-356) lists about seventy items. No note or explanation is offered by Mr. Rowland to show that he had noticed that letters were missing.

In volume III, page 238, is a note stating, "Manuscript missing up to January 11, 1806." The last item entered is under date of November 25, 1805. Parker (362-363) lists over twenty documents between these dates.

Again, in the same volume (3:369), in the middle of a letter of July 15, 1806, to Jefferson, the note, "Manuscript torn," appears twice, and then the document continues, although obviously not the same letter. An examination of the Jefferson papers in the manuscripts division of the library of congress discloses the fact that the torn manuscript represents the absence of parts of two letters and one whole one, totalling

approximately eight large pages. (*Letters to Jefferson, second series*, 19: nos. 49, 50, 51.)

In volume iv, pages 123-143, there are many documents missing which are listed by Parker (369-371). In volume v, pages 24-34, Rowland has five entries for the year 1810, prior to December 1; Parker (378-380) has over thirty.

In all fairness it ought to be stated that Mr. Rowland has, in turn, published many documents which are not mentioned by Parker (especially 4:1-74; 5:166-222). Since the Claiborne papers in the state department do not extend, except for a few scattered letters, beyond 1812, when Louisiana became a state, the sixth volume of the Rowland edition, covering the period to 1816, becomes in consequence all the more valuable. Then, too, many important letters between Claiborne and local officials did not find their way to Washington, and here, again, the Rowland collection adds distinctly to our knowledge.

Mr. Rowland, for some reason or other, has not mentioned in the *Letter books* his own previous publications relative to the Claiborne material. In *The Mississippi territorial archives* (1: 342-603) will be found Claiborne's letters as governor of Mississippi territory; while in the *Third annual report of the director of the department of archives and history of the state of Mississippi* (106-169), Mr. Rowland has published Claiborne's correspondence concerning the Burr conspiracy. In his *First annual report* (pp. 23-39) and *Third annual report* (pp. 180-200, 212-234) Mr. Rowland has given lists or tables of contents of the *Claiborne Journals*. Significant mention of the *Journals* is contained also in the *Fourth annual report* (pp. 29-30) and *Eleventh and twelfth annual reports* (pp. 50-52). In the absence of a descriptive note and table of contents in the *Letter books*, the student will find all of the above citations helpful.

The volumes are neatly edited and are of a handy size. There is a good index, but, as has already been noted, no table of contents. It is somewhat confusing that the documents are not printed in exact chronological sequence. In the extended and useful list of parallel-printed and manuscript sources appended to volume vi, one looks in vain for either the *Memoirs* or the *Letters* of John Quincy Adams, a source of information too important to be ignored. Furthermore, in the light of the reviewer's own contribution of documents to the *American historical review* (22: 340-364), it can no longer be said, as is done by Mr. Rowland in this work (6: 415) that the senate debate on the government of Orleans territory was not reported.

While details of editing will not here be entered into, a certain carelessness in reference to footnotes might be mentioned. In volume i,

page 284, is the footnote, "Beginning of volume II," but no corresponding number appears on the page. Again, in volume VI, page 31, at the bottom of the text is the figure "2," presumably for a note on West Florida, which the number follows, but no note is given. In volume III, page 363, one reads "one hundred 7 25 per cent." This is "an hundred and 25 per cent" in the copy of the letter in the library of congress (Jefferson papers. Letters to Jefferson, second series, 19: no. 47).

It is unfortunate that Mr. Rowland, in making available to students of American history and government so important a set of documents as the *Claiborne letter books*, did not greatly enhance the value of his contribution by making use of the archives in Washington, or at least by indicating where the missing papers were to be found; yet, despite its discrepancies, the edition of the *Claiborne letter books* will form a valuable mine of material for the investigator of American institutional government as well as for the history of the expanding southwest.

EVERETT S. BROWN

*State regulation of railroads in the south.* By Maxwell Ferguson, A.M., LL.B., sometime university fellow in political science, Columbia university, instructor in economics, Vassar college. [Studies in history, economics and public law, edited by the faculty of political science, Columbia university, whole no. 162, vol. LXVII, no. 2] (New York: Columbia university, London: P. S. King & Son, limited, 1916. 228 p. \$1.75 net)

This monograph is confessedly fragmentary, being a small part of a much larger work planned by its author, and it is offered in its present form as an encouragement to students in southern colleges to undertake intensive studies of railway regulation in each of the states of the south. If the volume achieves this purpose its publication will be justified, but it falls short of meeting the needs of a serious student of the railway problem. "The south," as used in this study, refers to the territory south of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi rivers; and the states of Arkansas, Texas, Maryland, and Missouri are therefore omitted.

In the first three chapters Mr. Ferguson discusses the chief provisions in the early railway charters, in the early general railway laws, and in the present state constitutions. He then analyzes and classifies railway legislation and finds that this has been voluminous but "distressingly incomplete," with scant attention to some of the most important phases of the problem. He notes a growing tendency toward increasing the powers of state railway commissions, toward regulating the service, and toward legislative, rather than commission control over rates. The development of the commissions is traced historically, with a separate chapter for each of eleven states, and the work is